

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**REAP Meeting**

January 11, 2018

11:45 a.m.

Front Range Airport, Watkins, CO

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Gary Duke, who welcomed the attendees and called for introductions.

**The following Board Members were present:**

Jeff Baker	Wil Chase	Kristi Cranston	Ivy Craig
Michelle Gayeski	Allison Hiltz	Mary Hodge	Al Holcomb
Kirk Howell	Sandra Johnson	Norm Johnson	Josh Liss
Theresa NeSmith	Christina Pastori	Matt Reay	Glenn Rotkovich
Louis Salazar	Kevin Schott	Jan Yeckes	Becky Zierer

**Guests attending were:**

John	Brackney	Webolutions
Erin	Brinkley Burghardt	Hog Haven Farm
Michael	Cranwill	
Craig	Curl	SBDC
Paul	Deaderick	
Carl	Gerber	Carl the Computer Guy
Christina	Hoffman	SBDC
Jeff	Hopkins	Frontage RV Storage
Lisa	Hudson	SBDC
Branden	Jenson	Adams County
Mike	Jensen	Colorado Enterprise Fund
Ronnie	Johnson	FAN
Jack	Keever	Reap
David	Larson	Huebards Shoe Grease
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Tom	McEniry	Kazmira
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Megan	Mosher	Lincoln Community Hospital
Ben	Rathke	Peak Vista
Ellie	Reynolds	EIS Solutions
Jose	Rocha	Town of Bennett
Aaron	Rotkovich	Lead Valley Range
Rachel	Shuck	Peak Vista
Bob	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Rachel	Summers	Town of Bennett
Dana	Talarico	The Talario Company LLC
Nancy	Thompson	Peak Vista
Darrel	Vanhooser	ConocoPhillips
Jennifer	Woods	Adams County
Jake	Zambrano	EIS Solutions

**Approval of the November 9th, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Chairman's Report:**

No Report

### **Executive Director Report:**

Jack announced that the 2018 Reap brochure was available. The brochure lists Board Members, Reap Initiatives and the 2018 meeting dates. Next month's speaker will be Don Ament former State Agriculture Commissioner. Julio Iturreria has recently retired from Arapahoe County. He will be missed at the Reap meetings.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Ben Rathke, Director of Dental Operations on the eastern plains and Nancy Thompson, Clinical Coordinator in Strasburg** gave an update on Peak Vista. Peak Vista provides medical and dental care at three eastern plains clinics in Strasburg, Kiowa and Limon. They are looking for 2 – 3 providers in both Strasburg and the Limon Clinics. Rural clinics are often used by providers as a starting point in their careers. Often time's providers use the rural status to pay off student loan debt, and leave once their 3 year commitment is met. The Medical Clinic has joined a "Grow your own" and will be having a Certified Nursing Assistant trained as a Medical Assistant starting in 2018. This program will continue to ensure qualified trained staff is available. Tuitions are 80% paid by Peak Vista for a minimum requirement of 2 years employment. Peak Vista has four eastern plains clinics in Strasburg, Kiowa, Limon and Flagler. Most private dental insurances are accepted as well as public assistance on a sliding scale. Recruitment and retention of qualified providers remains a challenge for rural areas.

**Craig Curl with SBDC** introduced Mike Larson who owns Huebard's Shoe Grease. This company is 96 years old and was previously located in Snowflake, AZ. In 2017 they relocated their plant and operations to Bennett. Through a partnership with SBDC, Adams County ACED and the Colorado Enterprise funds they received help through the revolving loan fund to grow and expand their business. Their business has expanded 2 – 3 fold.

**Mike Jensen with the Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF)** explained how they help small businesses get loans. When a small business is unsuccessful getting a loan through traditional financial institutions, CEF can help with a business loan. CEF loans are at a higher interest rate than traditional loans and terms are for 5 – 10 years. The funding is usually for marketing and other resources needed to expand a small business.

**Christina Hoffman, SBDC Program Manager** spoke about a new program offered by the Colorado SBDC. The Certified Small Business Community Program offers assistance to rural communities. Applicants must work with their local SBDC office to determine if they are eligible for funding. Winners receive Up to \$30,000 in cash to assist with the completion of an action plan. Applicant will receive up to \$10,000 in coaching, mentoring and technical assistance from the Colorado SBDC Network. The program provides continued funding for up to three years.

### **Other Business:**

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.